

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 07719 300642Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-05 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /075 W
-----108751 300646Z /12
R 300515Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4304

S E C R E T TEHRAN 7719

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: SHUM IR
SUBJ: RECENTLY RELEASED PRISONERS

REF: (A) TEHRAN 7404, (B) TEHRAN A-141

1. EMB NAME CHECK OF PRISONERS RELEASED ON THE OCCASION OF "AMORDAD 28" (REFTEL) REVEALED ONLY FRACTIONAL INFORMATION. SEVERAL WERE FORMER TUDEH PARTY MEMBERS, THOUGH WITHOUT THEIR BIRTHDATES IT IS DIFFICULT TO KNOW IF ANY HAD BEEN INCARCERATED FROM THE 1950'S. THREE WOMEN HAD ALLEGED TERRORIST CONNECTIONS. THERE APPEARED TO BE NO WELL KNOWN TERRORISTS OR POLITICAL ACTIVISTS ON THIS LIST. HOWEVER, MORE DEFINITIVE WORD WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE UNTIL FURTHER CHECKS ARE MADE. AS WE HAVE REPORTED SEPARATELY, IRANIAN SECURITY POLICE HAVE BEEN EXPRESSING FEARS THAT DANGEROUS ELEMENTS MIGHT BE RELEASED WHO WOULD JUST TAKE UP AGAIN WHERE THEY HAD LEFT OFF.

2. A CHECK OF OUR FILES INDICATES THERE HAVE BEEN 500 ANTI-SECURITY PRISONERS RELEASED SO FAR IN CALENDAR YEAR 1977, AND WE EXPECT SOMETHING IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF 400 MORE TO BE RELEASED ON THE SHAH'S BIRTHDAY, OCT 24. SIXTY-SIX WERE RELEASED IN FEB, 91 IN MARCH AND THE 343 FOR 28TH AMORDAD. THIS COMPARES WITH 733 RELEASED IN THE LAST PART OF 1976 (OCT 24 AND DEC 7) BUT NOT ALL OF
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WHOM WERE ANTI SECURITY CASES. WE DO NOT HAVE THE EXACT BREAKDOWN OF THE SECURITY CASES INVOLVED THEN BUT IT PROBABLY WAS SOMEWHERE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF 500.

3. THE STEADY TEMPO OF PRISONER RELEASE IS CLEARLY A WELCOME SIGN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS - AND IRAN'S

IMAGE-ON THE PART OF THE SHAH AND HIS GOVT. SECURITY
OFFICIALS EXPRESS THE WORRY THAT THE NUMBERS ARE
APPROACHING A POINT WHERE DANGEROUS ELEMENTS AMONG
THOSE CONSIDERED TO BE "SMALL FRY" MIGHT BE RELEASED.
IF THEY ARE NOT DISSEMBLING, THIS WOULD SUGGEST THE
NUMBERS IN PRISON FOR SECURITY CRIMES DO NOT GREATLY
EXCEED THE ESTIMATES OF 3000 OR SO THAT THE EMB HAS
GENERALLY CREDITED. WE SHALL CONTINUE TO WATCH AND
DO OUR ARITHMETIC.
SULLIVAN

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 30-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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TAGS: SHUM, IR
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